

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 13th April 1987

Both Radio Mersey Waves and Merseyland Radio report DTI activity in the area this weekend. Mersey Waves put out an alert to the other stations at 3:50pm on Friday, and Merseyland Radio had monitors in the area on Sunday morning and early evening.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

On Sun/Mon, Dave Collins apparently did another "all-night" slot. The station was noted from 6:40pm with continuous music and the occasional announcement by KtC, but they had gone by 9pm. On Saturday they did an "on-air" Road Show from the National car rally stage finish on New Brighton promenade from noon to 5pm. The first hour, however, was mainly Dave Collins and Tony West "holding the fort" from the studio while the link from the radio car was sorted out. The crew seem to have had a good time, but they were disappointed with the turn-out. In view of the bitterly cold wind on the prom, they were lucky to see anyone there at all! Noted have been:-

Mon: 7am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm DJC; 3pm Tony West; 5pm Mark Palmer; 7pm Mark Palmer; 7pm Steve Coltrane; 9pm Peter Thomas; 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am DJ Sidney; 3am close-down

Fri: 7am Dave Collins; 10am Tony West; Noon Mark Palmer; 2pm Paul James; 4pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Paul Woods; 8pm DJ Sidney; 10pm Kevin Jordan; Midnight Dave Collins; 2am Tony West; 4pm(?) close-down.

Sat: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Mark Palmer; 10:25pm Mark Wright; Noon RMW Road Show; 5pm KtC; 7:30pm Don La One; 10pm Paul Jay; Midnight Dave Collins; 2am Tony West; 4am c/down

Sun: 9am Kevin Jordan; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Tony Coltrane; 3pm Burt Williams; 5pm DJC; 6pm Dave Benitez; 8pm Don La One; 10pm Mark Newman; Midnight Tony Hollis; 2am Tony West; 4am close-down.

SLAC-OFF INTERNATIONAL 104.8MHz: 132 Norwood Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 4EG

This station is heard with a lot of intermittent music and often more than one DJ seems to be present in the studio at the same time, so it is difficult to determine just whose show it is supposed to be. They don't seem to listen to the other stations, which means that they are often unaware of DTI activity in the area. This week, they were noted on Tuesday from 11:35pm, although not found at earlier checks. Close-down time wasn't noted. On Saturday, the Radio Mersey Waves FM link to the studio was suffering interference, which they believed was being caused by this station but, as nothing was heard here on the 94.8MHz link, this wasn't verified. Concept Radio apparently heard SOI on 104.8MHz around 8pm on Saturday, but say that they closed down a short time later. On Sunday, they were noted with continuous music from 6:30pm, but the signal tended to be intermittent till 7:20pm, when Mike Hughes signed the station on. During the evening, they reported that their phone-in had been sabotaged and suspected Radio Julie, but during Concept Radio's phone-in, Neil Bishop rang to say that Radio Julie had had nothing to do with it. The Sunday schedule seems to have been:-

Sun: 7:20pm Mike Hughes; 9pm Steve Mason; 11pm Mike Hughes; ?? Close-down

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3MHz: No current mailing address.

On Sunday, initial reports to this station suggested that they were putting out a "spur" on 96.4MHz. The station announced later that they were being relayed by SCOTT FM, run by Charles Browne, an ex-Central Radio DJ, but later again they said that Scott FM were actually running their own programming. Noted this weekend were:-

Sun: 6:40pm Cont music; 7pm Tom Webb; 9pm Jim Lowe; 11:30pm Webb & Lowe; ?? close-down.

Both DJs are featuring local free radio news and Jim Lowe is doing a spot featuring radio stations in different parts of the world. On Sunday he featured WAAF, a station in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Unfortunately, the extract was a little too short for listeners to be able to assess the "quality" or otherwise of the original station. Radio in the USA is often held up as the "shining example" of what a "free" radio system means and what such a system would mean if it were adopted in this country largely depends on what the listeners will support!! As with all "free" systems, there is good and bad, but in the end, the choice boils down to the listeners point of view.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1404Khz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2DT

Anyone intending to write to this address should "hold fire" at the moment as a strike by the GPO has sealed the boxes in the Liverpool 11 area, with the possibility of the strike spreading to other areas. The station was first noted at 10:05am on Sunday, with Phil Davies in the "hot seat". Shortly after this, the station appear to have received a report that they were being deliberately jammed by Radio Merseyland in the Anfield area of Liverpool. At this point, LPR moved frequency to 1422kHz, with the result that whereas both stations had previously been heard before, I now picked up Radio Merseyland with slight interference, while LPR were not heard at all. There seems

to be a complete lack of understanding that when two stations choose to operate on nearby frequencies, one will not be heard in the close vicinity of the other's location, and vice-versa. In this area, BBC Merseyside is heard 7 channels away from its nominal frequency of 1485kHz, which spreads onto Merseyland's frequency, but I'm sure that LPR wouldn't suggest that Merseyland move to 1485kHz, the tactic that they themselves see as the answer to their own problems. Noted this week were:-

Sun: 10am Phil Davies; Noon Paul Jones; 3pm Phil Davies; 4:05pm close-down.

RADIO MERSEYLAND 1422kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station was first noted on Sunday at 9:05am but fairly early on, they mentioned that the DTI had been seen in the vicinity, and during the early afternoon they were off the air for causes put down to both equipment failure and DTI activity. Noted were:-

Sun: 9am Msrk Evans; Noon Jim Browne; 2pm Dave Starr; 2:34pm Mark Evans; 3pm Rock-

Steady Eddie; 4:30pm sudden off; 4:50pm back on with Mark Evans saying that the "off" was due to technical problems, followed by Rock-Steady Eddie, who said the DTI had also been seen; 5:15pm Lyn Barry; 6pm(?) close-down

The station says that it will be on the air on Saturday and Sunday next week

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